

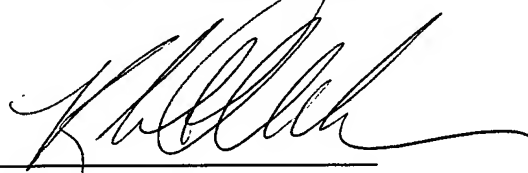
examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant amendment has been made to correct an error of a typographical nature in the identification of the priority document number. Moreover, Applicants note that the priority date corresponds to the priority date indicated on the executed declaration.

Applicants further note that, as the instant amendment merely corrects a typographical error, no question of new matter is raised in entering this amendment, and, as the claims are not affected by this amendment, the amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to a statutory basis of patentability.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**APPENDIX**

***Marked-Up Copies of the Amended Claims:***

**[0001]** The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Austrian Patent Application No. [88/2000] 88/2001 filed January 18, 2001, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.